

# WORKPLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COMMON PROGRAM

## Purposes

There are several purposes associated with this proposed workplan. They are:

- Provide stakeholders and interested public with milestones in order to facilitate their engagement in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program process.
- Provide for the coordinators of work products between the various elements and components of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program during Phase II.
- To serve as a management and budget tool for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.
- To serve as the process document for refinement of the Ecosystem Restoration Common Program.

## Proposed Approach

Through a public workshop process, CALFED Bay-Delta Program and Bay-Delta Advisory Council have adopted a mission statement, a suite of problem statements and ecosystem restoration objectives. Technical workshops resulted in a comprehensive set of indicators of ecological integrity, that will be used by staff to measure progress toward ecosystem health restoration and to aid in the establishment of targets.

An extensive literature review concluded that our basic approach, habitat restoration, is feasible and that a broad based or ecosystem approach can produce a species or population level response from target plants or animals. This stakeholder initiated review will be incorporated by staff.

An outline description of the Program, which includes the general elements or actions, has been developed by CALFED Bay-Delta staff. This document, the Ecosystem Restoration Common Program, contains ranges of targets or objectives. These targets were derived from existing programs such as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, the Upper Sacramento River Anadromous Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Restoration Program, and are place holders pending additional analysis and refinement.

An Ecosystem Restoration Strategy paper was developed by staff and reviewed by the Bay-Delta Advisory Council Ecosystem Restoration Work Group. This paper describes CALFED's vision of a restored ecosystem and describes the strategy being followed to develop, implement, and manage the restoration Program.

Alternate methods for setting targets for ecosystem restoration have been evaluated by the BDAC Ecosystem Work Group. Their advice was used to develop a process paper which will be reviewed by the Agency Program Coordination Team (PCT). Following the PCT review of the proposed process, staff and the consultant team will identify, calculate or estimate targets for the various actions or elements of the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The projected completion date for a review draft is September 15, 1996. Review will be completed during September, and draft targets suitable for analysis at the programmatic EIR/EIS level will be completed by October 15, 1996. These targets will be expressed as ranges of the particular actions (e.g., acres, miles, or cubic feet per section.)

A draft paper on the Adaptive Management process was prepared by staff and consultants. The paper was reviewed by the BDAC Ecosystem Work Group on July 24, 1996. Comments received will be incorporated into a second draft which will be discussed at the Bay-Delta Ecosystem Work Group meeting on August 28, 1996. A final draft Adaptive Management process paper will be provided to the PCT for review and discussion at their October 9, 1996 meeting. The final Adaptive Management Process will be prepared by staff and consultants and incorporated into the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Strategy Report, which will be released for review on November 15, 1996.

The Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Strategy Report will be a major milestone report. It will combine the elements or actions with targets into a phasing or strategy schedule. A monitoring protocol for individual actions and for indicators of ecological health will be included. Known research needs will be identified and scheduled. The adaptive management Program will be described and will include a proposed process to identify future research needs, changes in monitoring procedures and future adaptation of the Program which will be responsive to the cumulative body of information. Assurances necessary to support implementation of the Ecosystem Restoration Program and accomplishment of its vision and goals will be developed by Program staff with advice from the BDAC Ecosystem Work Group and Assurances Work Group. It is anticipated that a draft package of assurances will be available for review in early 1997.

Protocols for the monitoring components of the implementation strategy are being developed by the interagency Ecological Program's Community Monitoring Committee. A technical workshop will be held on August 5, 6, 7, 1996. A report on the workshop will be provided to the CALFED staff by August 30, 1996. The report will be reviewed by staff and the consultant team. A draft Ecosystem Program monitoring plan will be completed by October 11, 1996. The draft plan will be reviewed by the Agency Ecosystem Review Team at their meeting scheduled for October 22, 1996. Revisions will be made as necessary by staff. The final draft monitoring plan will be included in the implementation strategy report scheduled for November 15, 1996.

## **Proposed Workplan for 1997**

The first quarter of 1997 will be occupied by refinements to the Ecosystem Common Program, responses and revisions to the Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Strategy Report and support for preparation of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and Statement.

The second quarter of 1997 workplan will focus on the development of a programmatic Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation and the development of a Habitat Conservation Program. Also, during the second quarter, cost analysis and benefit analysis will be performed by staff and consultants.

Second half of 1997 will be devoted to refinement of impact analysis of the CALFED alternative and the Ecosystem Restoration Common Program.

## **Ecosystem Restoration Component Workplan**

### **TASK DESCRIPTION OUTLINE**

#### **Task Develop Ecosystem Restoration Targets**

##### **Task 1 - Develop Vision**

List ecosystem components for which vision will be developed.

*whole basin ecosystem*

*eco-regions*

*species/populations*

*ecological functions*

*key habitats*

Develop generalized restoration vision for ecosystem

Develop specific Bay-Delta vision (by watershed)

Develop specific vision for Rivers & Tributaries (by watershed)

##### **Task 2 - Develop List of Key Resources**

Task 2.1 - Develop list of key species

Task 2.2 - Develop list of key habitats

Task 2.3 - Develop list of key ecological functions

Task 2.4 - Develop list of key limiting factors or stressors

##### **Task 3 - Set Goals and Targets for Ecosystem Restoration Program**

Task 3.1 - Set Goals/Targets for key Ecosystem Attributes (Functions, Habitats, Species, and Stressors)

Task 3.1.1 - List ecosystem attributes for which goals/targets are to be set.  
Task 3.1.2 - Define spectrum of unhealthy to healthy state for each attribute.

Task 3.1.3 - Estimate where on the spectrum is the existing state of health

Task 3.1.4. - Identify where we want the state of health to be for the short and long term of the Program.

Task 3.2 - Develop Targets for Actions

Task 3.2.1 - Describe actions being considered for ecosystem restoration Program.

Task 3.2.2 - Develop criteria for setting implementation level for each action.

Task 3.2.3 - Set target or level or implementation for each action.

Draft completion report due on September 25, 1996.

Revised draft report on targets due October 15, 1996.

#### **Task 4 - Develop an Adaptive Management Program**

Task 4.1 - Prepare draft discussion paper

Task 4.2 - Present and discuss discussion paper to BDAC Ecosystem Work Group

Task 4.3 - Revise discussion paper

Task 4.4 - Present revised draft to BDAC Ecosystem Work Group on 8/28/96.

Task 4.5 - Revise discussion draft and provide to PCT for review

Task 4.6 - Complete Adaptive Management Process Paper on 10/30/96

#### **Task 5 - Develop Monitoring Protocols and Program**

Task 5.1 - Develop specific monitoring needs, 8/5/96

Task 5.2 - Categorize proposed monitoring efforts, 8/6/96

Task 5.3 - Develop approaches to implementation, 8/7/96

Task 5.4 - Complete workshop report, 8/30/96

Task 5.5 - Complete draft monitoring plan, 10/11/96

#### **Task 6 - Develop Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Strategy Report.**

Task 6.1 - Develop draft phasing or strategy plan, 9/1/96

Task 6.2 - Prepare revised strategy plan, 10/1/96

Task 6.3 - Prepare final draft strategy plan, 10/15/96

Task 6.4 - Incorporate identified research needs into monitoring plan, 10/20/96

Task 6.5 - Prepare process paper to identify future research needs, 10/21/96

Task 6.6 - Incorporate results of target description, indicators report, monitoring task development, research needs, staging plan and adaptive management process into Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Strategy Report, 11/15/96.

5

E-024917